(d) The production of cotton during the last three cotton seasons, as estimated by Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) were as under:—

(Qty. in lakh bales of 170 kg each)

Cotton Year	Production of Cotton
1990-91	117.00
1991-92	119.00
1992-93	135.00

(e) The production of cotton during the cotton season 1993-94 has been provisionally put at 125 lakh bales of 170 kg. each. The consumption of cotton by mills non-mills, sector etc., (excluding exports) has been projected as under:

(Qty. in lakh bales of 170 kg each)

Mill Consumption	113.00
Non-mill Consumption	8.00
Small spinners' Consumption	4.20
TOTAL	125.20

(f) Under the EXIM policy import of cotton is in the negative list, however, exporting mills can import cotton under the Advance Licensing Scheme, for the purpose of export production. On 14.2.94, as a special measure, after assessing the demand and supply position of cotton and noticing the shortage in the availability of raw cotton and the consequent increase in the domestic prices, the Government has, in Public interest, allowed import of 5 lakh bales of raw cotton by the spinning mills.

In pursuance of the long term policy for export of cotton, the Government releases 5 lakh bales of cotton at the commencement of every cotton season subject to the adjustments being made after detailed crop estimates are available.

Unproductive Textile Mills under NTC

982. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of unproductive textile mills under National Textile Corporation;

(b) the number of textile workers thus rendered idle together with the monthly wage bill;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to utilise the service of these workers; and

(d) if so, details of the scheme likely to be implemented in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The names, location, number of idle workers and average monthly wage bill of unoperational mills under NTC are given in the Statement attached, (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The workers rendered surplus due to restructuring to phase out the uneconomic and unviable activities in NTC have been offered a Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The Scheme provides for exgratia payment equivalent to 1 1/2 month emoluments for each completed year of service or the monthly emoluments at the time of voluntary retirement multiplied by the remaining months of service before normal date of retirement, whichever is lower, in addition to the normal terminal benefits. A Rehabilitation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 50.00 crores has also been created for the purpose of training and re-deployment of workers of NTC who have availed of voluntary retirement. Schemes have been formulated to enable the rationalised workers to set up powerlooms/reeling units. A production incentive of 25% to 33% of the capital costs of the schemes is provided after the looms/reeling units are run successfully for 6 months to make the venture more profitable.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name & location of the mill	No. of idle workers	Monthly idle wages paid
1.	Muir Mills, Kanpur	1817	30.73
2.	New Victoria Mills, Kanpur	1809	37.20
3.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	2028	41.03
4.	Lord Krishna Textile Mills, Saharanpur	1325	14.03
5.	Sri Vikram Cotton, Lucknow	760	5.15
6.	Laxmirattan Cotton Mills, Kanpur	1945	36.06
7.	Atherton Mills, Kanpur	1435	22.55
8.	Viramgam Textile Mills, Viramgam	912	12.53
9.	Rajkot Textile Mills, Rajkot	374	7.96
10.	Mahalaxmi Mills, Bhavnagar	909	20.42
11.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Mills, Ahmedabad	1198	28.02
12.	Petlad Textile Mills, Petlad	410	9.99
	TOTAL	14922	265.67

Bringing down the Prices of Janata Cloth

983. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to resume the supply of Janta Cloth for poorer sections of people;

(b) whether Government are aware that costs of ordinary cloth are spiralling upwards;

(c) if so, reasons for the increases; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take to bring down the prices of cloth used by common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Government is still implementing the Janata Cloth Scheme.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The increase in the prices of cloth is mainly due to increase in the cost of raw-materials used in its production.

(d) From 1986 under the Textile (Control) Order, the policy of Government has been modified to liberalise the setting up of powerlooms. Setting up of powerlooms has further been liberalised w.e.f, 1993 under the Textile (Development and Regulation) Order. Due to the decentralised nature of production in powerlooms, the cloth produced by them is cheaper and today bulk of the requirement of cloth of low income group is being met by powerloom sector to an increased extent from year to year.

Closure of Textile Mills in Ahmedabad

984. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of textile mills in Ahmedabad have been virtually closed down, rendering thousands of workers jobless;

(b) if so, what is the total number of textile mills in Ahmedabad that have shut-down and what is the estimated number of workers rendered jobless;